

High School Exit Examination

Results of the Spring 2003 Administration

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High School Exit Examination Basic Skills Assessment Program (BSAP) Results of the Spring 2003 Administration

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<p>Note: This report presents the results only for students who took the Exit Examination for the first time.</p>

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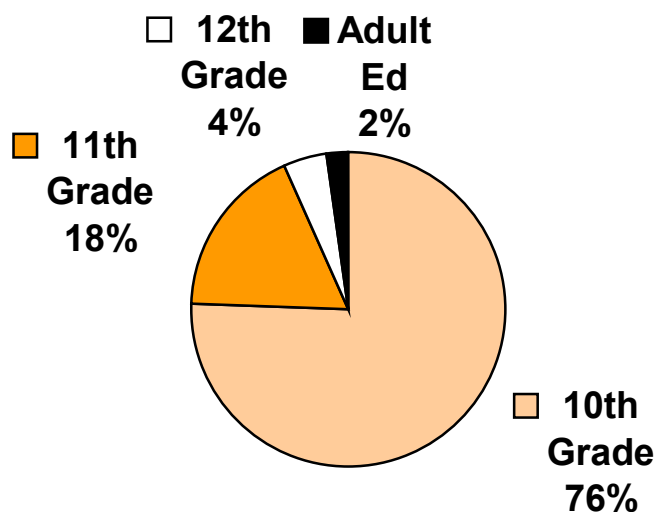
Background

The South Carolina High School Exit Examination was first administered in 1986 and was made a requirement for the state's students to pass in order to receive a high school diploma in 1990. The Exit Examination was part of the Basic Skills Assessment Program (BSAP), which assessed student performance on statewide objectives in reading, mathematics, writing, and science at grades three, six, eight, and ten. In 1999, the BSAP tests at grades three, six, and eight were replaced by the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Tests (PACT), which are administered at grades three through eight.

The Exit Examination, which includes subtests in the subject areas of reading, mathematics, and writing, is first administered to students in the spring of their tenth-grade year. Students who do not pass all sections of the examination are given at least four opportunities to retake any subtests they did not pass. BSAP Exit was administered to tenth-grade students for the last time in 2003 and will be administered to seniors who have not yet passed all parts in 2005. The High School Assessment Program (HSAP) Test will replace the Exit Examination in spring 2004.

Student Participants

A total of 57,262 students participated in the spring 2003 Exit Examination. The graph below illustrates student participation by grade. As shown there, approximately 76 percent (43,280) of the participants were tenth graders; about 18 percent (10,204) were eleventh graders; 4 percent (2,461) were twelfth graders; and adult education students made up about 2 percent (1,317) of the participants. Among the 43,280 tenth graders who took the examination, 40,622 took the examination for the first time.



Highlights of the Results of the Spring 2003 Exit Examination by Subject Area

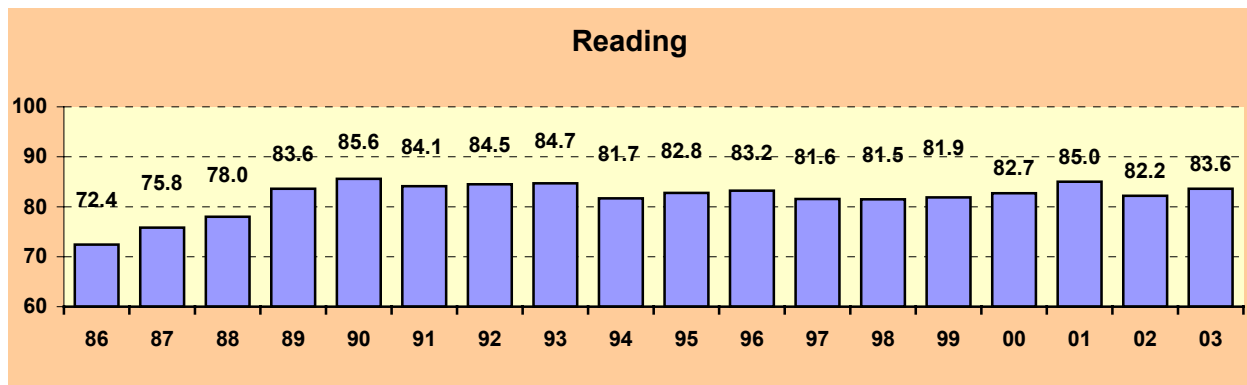
- A. Between 2002 and 2003, the following changes in the percentage of students who met the standard for the individual subject areas occurred for tenth graders taking the Exit Examination for the first time:
- reading—an increase of 1.4 percentage points, from 82.2 percent in 2002 to 83.6 percent in 2003
 - mathematics—an increase of 0.2 percentage point, from 80.5 percent in 2002 to 80.7 percent in 2003
 - writing—a decrease of 1.5 percentage points, from 84.4 percent in 2002 to 82.9 percent in 2003
 - all three subjects—an increase of 0.2 percentage point, from 67.4 percent in 2002 to 67.6 percent in 2003
- B. White female students had the best performance in reading and writing, with 91.8 percent and 95.4 percent meeting standard respectively, while students in the Asian/Pacific Islander group had the highest performance in mathematics (92.7 percent).
- C. While the percentage meeting standard for students in most of the demographic groups increased slightly in reading and mathematics, the performance of students with disabilities and students in free lunch program showed the largest increase of 3.2 percentage points in reading.
- D. Among all ethnic groups, American Indian/Alaskan Native students showed the most improvement in mathematics with an increase of 8.6 percentage points.
- E. A total of 337 adult education students took the Exit Examination for the first time in 2003. In comparison with their counterparts in 2002, the percentage of those students meeting the standard increased in reading but decreased in mathematics and writing:
- reading—an increase of 3.1 percentage points
 - mathematics—a decrease of 6.2 percentage points
 - writing—a decrease of 1.5 percentage points

Tenth Graders Taking the Exit Examination for the First Time

Percentages of Students Meeting Standard for Subject Areas since 1986

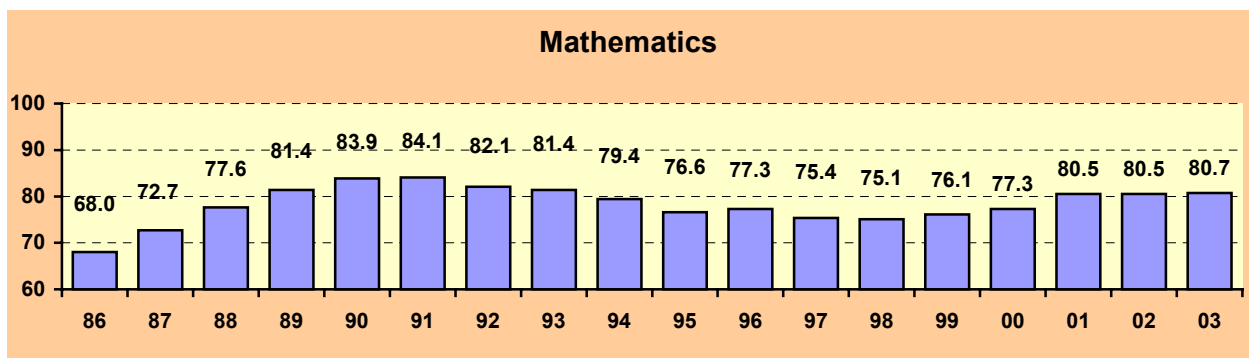
READING

On their first Exit Examination attempt, 83.6 percent of the tenth graders (33,792 of 40,443) met the reading standard. From 2002 to 2003, performance increased by 1.4 percentage points. Since the inception of the Exit Examination in 1986, performance has increased by 11.2 percentage points (from 72.4 percent to 83.6 percent) in reading, with its peak at 85.6 percent in 1990.



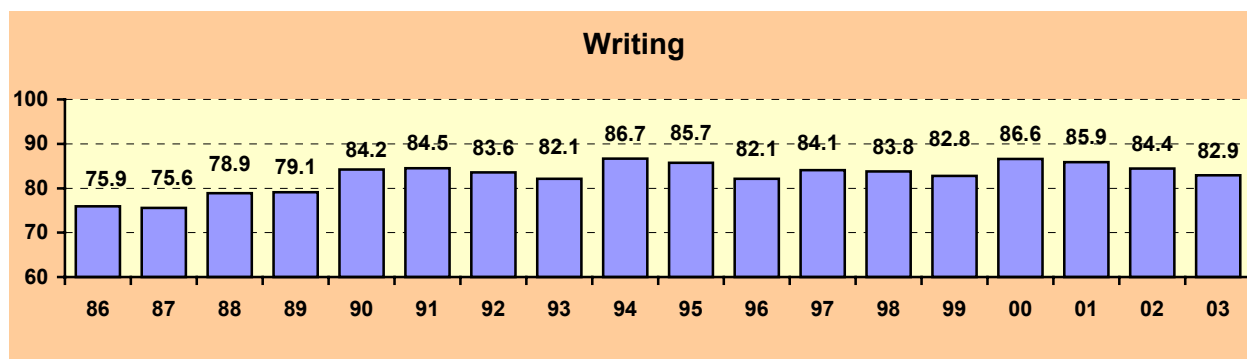
MATHEMATICS

On their first Exit Examination attempt, 80.7 percent of the tenth graders (32,601 of 40,408) met the mathematics standard. From 2002 to 2003, there was an increase of 0.2 percentage points in student test performance in this subject area. Since the inception of the Exit Examination in 1986, performance has increased by 12.7 percentage points (from 68 percent to 80.7 percent) in mathematics, with its peak at 84.1 percent in 1991.



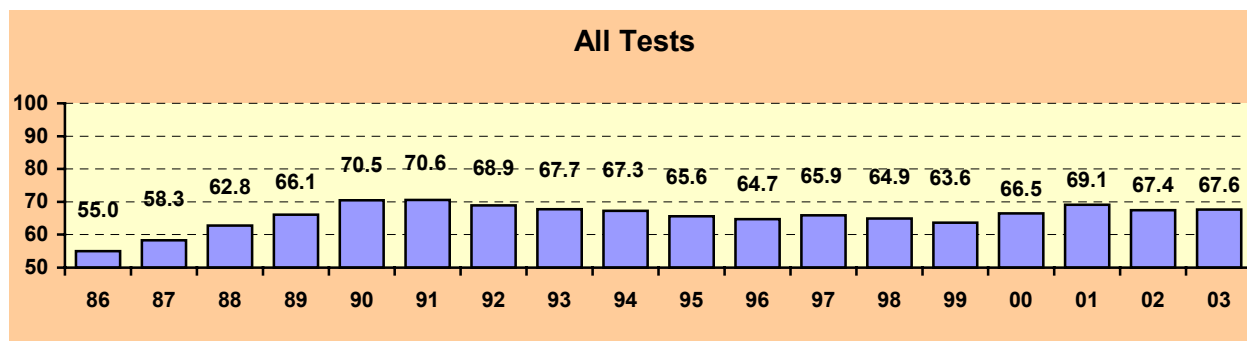
WRITING

On their first Exit Examination attempt, 82.9 percent of the tenth graders (33,389 of 40,295) met the writing standard. From 2002 to 2003, performance decreased by 1.5 percentage points. Since the inception of the Exit Examination in 1986, performance has increased by 7 percentage points (from 75.9 percent to 82.9 percent) in writing, with its peak at 86.7 percent in 1994.



ALL TESTS

On their first Exit Examination attempt, 67.6 percent of the tenth graders (27,466 of 40,622) met the standard for all tests. From 2002 to 2003, student test performance increased by 0.2 percentage points. Since the inception of the Exit Examination in 1986, performance has increased by 12.6 percentage points (from 55 percent to 67.6 percent) for students passing all three tests, with its peak at 70.6 percent in 1991.



Results by Demographic Groupings: A Comparison between 2002 and 2003

Percentages of Students Meeting Standard for Subject Areas									
	Reading			Mathematics			Writing		
	2003	2002	Change	2003	2002	Change	2003	2002	Change
All Students	83.6	82.2	1.4	80.7	80.5	0.2	82.9	84.4	-1.5
Male	83.4	82.1	1.3	83.3	82.7	0.6	79.0	80.7	-1.7
Female	83.8	82.3	1.5	78.3	78.6	-0.3	86.4	87.8	-1.4
White	91.7	90.4	1.3	89.8	89.5	0.3	92.2	91.7	0.5
African-American	71.6	69.5	2.1	66.5	66.3	0.2	69.0	73.5	-4.5
Hispanic	69.3	72.3	-3.0	72.2	73.0	-0.8	67.6	71.4	-3.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	87.4	84.9	2.5	92.7	90.5	2.2	82.3	81.6	0.7
American Indian/ Alaskan Native*	83.6	82.6	1.0	86.9	78.3	8.6	80.0	85.5	-5.5
White male	91.5	90.0	1.5	91.9	91.1	0.8	89.0	88.7	0.3
White female	91.8	90.9	0.9	87.8	88.1	-0.3	95.4	94.7	0.7
African-American male	70.1	68.5	1.6	68.6	68.0	0.6	62.8	67.5	-4.7
African-American female	72.9	70.4	2.5	64.8	65.0	-0.2	74.2	78.3	-4.1
Other male**	78.6	78.3	0.3	84.1	83.3	0.8	69.8	72.4	-2.6
Other female**	74.4	77.8	-3.4	76.5	77.6	-1.1	76.8	80.2	-3.4
Free lunch	70.5	67.3	3.2	67.9	66.7	1.2	68.7	72.0	-3.3
Reduced-Price lunch	80.0	77.9	2.1	76.9	76.6	0.3	79.2	81.3	-2.1
Full-Price lunch	89.6	88.6	1.0	86.7	86.4	0.3	89.3	89.5	-0.2
Not disabled	85.9	84.6	1.3	82.5	82.4	0.1	85.3	86.5	-1.2
Disabled	53.4	50.2	3.2	57.4	54.7	2.7	51.9	55.6	-3.7
Limited English Proficiency	39.1	n/a	n/a	59.3	n/a	n/a	36.6	n/a	n/a
Migrant	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

* A total of 61 students tested in each subtest.

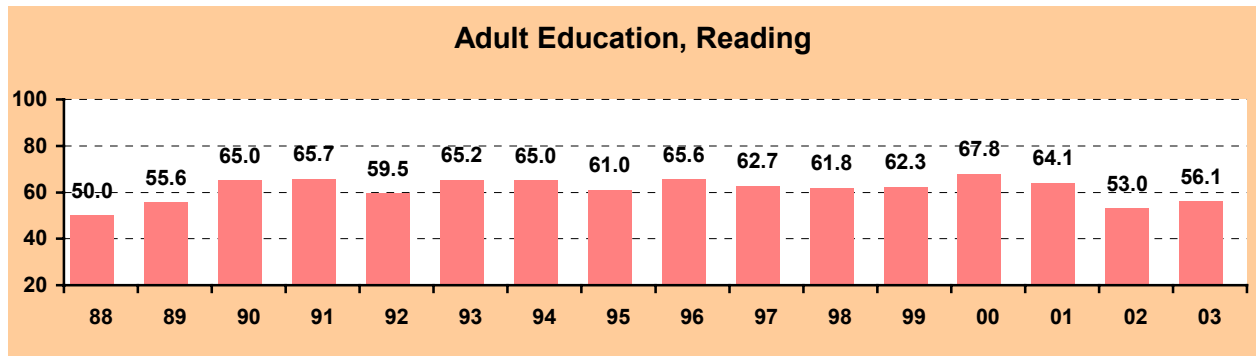
** Includes Hispanics, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and American Indians/Alaskan Natives.

Adult Education Students Taking the Exit Examination for the First Time

Percentages of Students Meeting Standard for Subject Areas since 1988

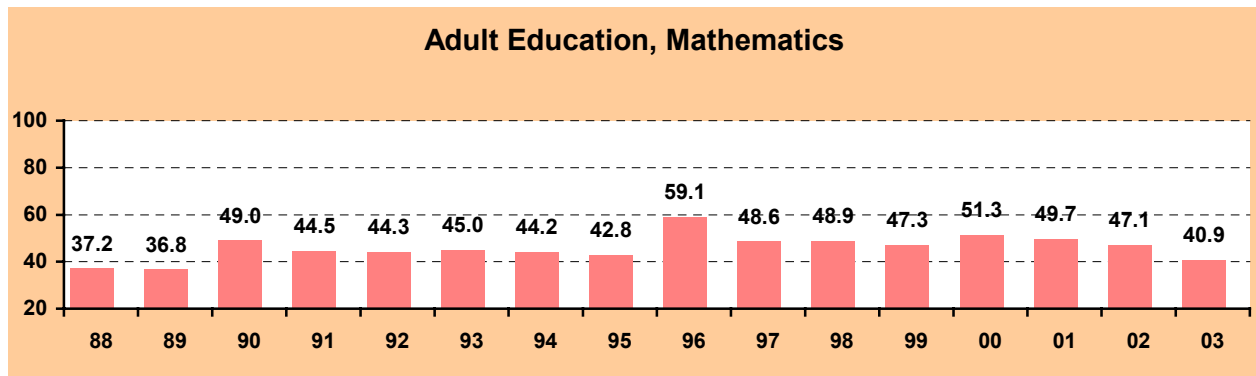
READING

On their first Exit Examination attempt, about 56.1 percent of adult education students (157 of 280) met the reading standard. From 2002 to 2003, performance increased by 3.1 percentage points. Since 1988, performance has increased by 6.1 percentage points (from 50 percent to 56.1 percent), with its peak at 67.8 percent in 2000.



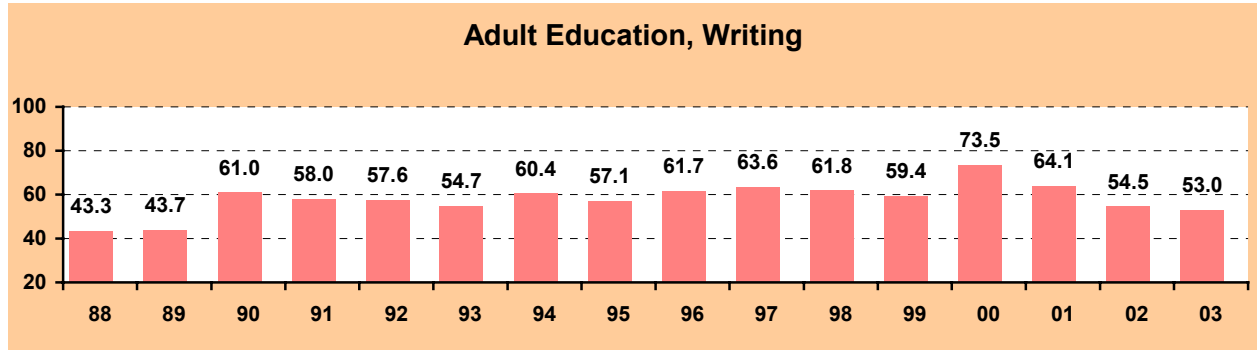
MATHEMATICS

On their first Exit Examination attempt, approximately 40.9 percent of adult education students (119 of 291) met the mathematics standard. From 2002 to 2003, performance decreased by 6.2 percentage points. Since 1988, performance has increased by 3.7 percentage points (from 37.2 percent to 40.9 percent), with its peak at 59.1 percent in 1996.



WRITING

On their first Exit Examination attempt, about 53 percent of adult education students (143 of 270) met the writing standard. From 2002 to 2003, performance decreased by 1.5 percentage points. Since 1988, performance has increased by 9.7 percentage points (from 43.3 percent to 53 percent), with its peak at 73.5 percent in 2000.



ALL TESTS

On their first Exit Examination attempt, 30.8 percent of adult education students (70 of 227 who took all three tests) met the standard for all the subtests. From 2002 to 2003, performance decreased by 8 percentage points. Since 1988, performance has increased by 11.3 percentage points (from 19.5 percent to 30.8 percent), with its peak at 45 percent in 2000.

